

11-25-1974

## Resist Newsletter, Nov. 25, 1974

Resist

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.trincoll.edu/resistnewsletter>

---

### Recommended Citation

Resist, "Resist Newsletter, Nov. 25, 1974" (1974). *Resist Newsletters*. 55.  
<https://digitalrepository.trincoll.edu/resistnewsletter/55>

# RESIST

*a call to resist  
illegitimate authority*

25 November 1974 - 720 Massachusetts Avenue, No. 4, Cambridge, Mass. 02139 # 87

## ATTICA: three years later

### BOSTON ATTICA PROJECT

The Attica trials have begun. Three years after the rebellion at Attica Prison in upstate New York, with at least one grand jury still sitting, still calling witnesses, still investigating the events of September 9 to 13, 1971, still empowered to indict. The first cases are coming to trial. In the bleak autumn of Buffalo, the first of 62 men are going to trial.

The first trial ended on October 9, with the dismissal of all charges. Brother Willie Smith had been charged with two counts of sodomy and two counts of sexual abuse. In granting the motion for dismissal filed by defense lawyers, Supreme Court Justice Frank R. Bayger cited the lack of any corroborating evidence presented for the prosecution in the trial. In a statement to the press, Baker stated, "that I have examined and reviewed all the testimony; I have listened to and reread all the evidence and considered the legal arguments of counsel...it is my conclusion that the people have failed to present evidence sufficient to sustain charges..."

In court, defense attorney James Kemp of Rochester, noted the marked discrepancies between the testimony of the prosecution witnesses before this court and their earlier testimony before the grand jury. Mr. Kemp ended his statement by expressing his agreement with the decision for dismissal. According to Dennis Cunningham, attorney acting as co-counsel for the defense, "this man never should have been brought to trial. The prosecution based its case on evidence which it was unable to produce in court and which the prosecutors admitted had been destroyed in a paper shredder more than one year ago."

The shredding of evidence is only part of an overall plan by authorities in New York to sabotage the defense of the Attica Brothers and cover-up the role that government officials and police played in the murder of 43 prisoners and guards on September 13, 1971.

(continued on page 2)

## GIs and the Boston Busing Crisis

### FORT BRAGG GI UNION

(Editor's note; In October, certain state and local officials were calling for federal troops to be sent to Boston to quell disturbances arising from the busing crisis. Although troops were never actually sent, the 82nd Airborne at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, were put on alert for riot duty. The following is from a special issue of Bragg Briefs, the newspaper of the Fort Bragg GI Union. The statement is the result of a joint effort by the GI Union, the Defense Committee/Tidewater, and the Legal In-Service Project. It illustrates what can be accomplished by organizing efforts within the military that seek to educate GI's about the ramifications of their being used as riot police in civil disturbances. The above mentioned groups work closely with the Jacksonville Defense Committee, this month's project piece on pages 4 and 5.)

(continued on page 6)





"ATTICA", cont.

After exhausting all grievance redress procedures with no results, the prisoners of Attica rose up to challenge the authorities who were subjecting them to inhumane treatment. They lived in D yard of the prison for four days. They created a society and an order which was organized and disciplined. They would not do to their hostages what was done to them; the hostages received medical treatment, were fed before the prisoners were fed, slept on mattresses while the prisoners slept on the ground. The prisoners elected representatives from each cell block who joined together to negotiate with prison authorities. It was an order which destroyed the repeated attempts by those in authority to depict the prisoners as criminals.

But Governor Rockefeller could not tolerate the challenge which the prisoners' society posed to state authority and the prison system as a whole. Consequently, he ordered officers of the state police to storm the prison and crush the rebellion. State troopers armed with CS gas, M-16s, Dum-Dum bullets - weapons outlawed for use in war by the Geneva Convention - pumped 2200 rounds of ammunition upon the unarmed men of Attica Prison and their hostages. When the assault was over, 43 men were dead and hundreds more were maimed and injured. The police terror did not end with the assault. In the words of Big Black, a prisoner involved in the uprising; "I'm telling you that the shots did not end that morning, we heard them into the night. I'm telling you about brothers being executed by the police after the assault. I'm not telling you about what I heard, I'm telling you what I know." Another prisoner told of the brutality used on those who survived the assault; "They put a football under my throat and told me if I moved it, I would be killed. For the next two hours I was used as a human spittoon and as a human ashtray. The scars are still on my body."

The state attempted to justify its actions by stating that the hostages died from slashed throats, that they were tortured and castrated, and that one guard was pushed to his death from a window. During the McKay hearings which took place to investigate these charges, the state was found to be lying. The official autopsy reports state unequivocally that all men murdered had died from gun shot wounds. The prisoners had no guns. The only weapons belonged to the assault force and prison guards on the outside.

To patch up the first cover-up attempt, the state switched to elaborate legal tactics. A grand jury was convened, all of whose members were white, headed by Rockefeller's Deputy Attorney General Robert Fisher. Of the twenty-three persons sitting on the jury, twelve admitted to being friends or acquaintances of guards at the prison. After a month's time, the grand jury returned 37 sealed indictments against 59 of the prisoners. The crimes they

allegedly committed ranged from first degree murder to possession of contraband; together these charges would carry a maximum sentence of over 60,000 years. Fisher revealed in a Buffalo newspaper interview that there would be no indictments against any guards or state officials for their actions during the uprising. On September 1, 1973, a Special Grand Jury returned three additional indictments, which brought the number of prisoners indicted to 61. Together, they were charged with over 1300 Felony accusations.

In the Spring of 1973, the Attica Defense Committee recruited lawyers for the trials. Their first action was to request that the trial be moved from Wyoming County (where Attica is located), to New York City, where 75% of the accused are residents. In June of the same year, Judge Harry Goldmun moved the trial to Erie County, rather than New York. A study done by the Fair Jury Project, headed by Columbia sociologist Jay Schulman, indicated that there was a wide-spread bias against the defendants amongst the population of Erie County. As a result, 97% of the jury pool was thrown out. The study revealed that almost three quarters of the potential jurors blamed the prisoners for the killings, while one-fifth felt that the lies used by the state to justify the assault were indeed true. One third felt that black militants and radicals should be put in prison solely on the basis of their beliefs.

Directly following the uprising, most of the defendants were transferred to maximum security prisons throughout New York. Seventeen of the accused were placed in solitary confinement in Auburn prison. This made preparations for their upcoming trial in Buffalo (hundreds of miles away) nearly impossible. A Defense motion to transfer the prisoners to nearby Erie County Jail was denied. Those Brothers that were let out of prison were and are being harrassed with trumped up charges of drug possession, rape, and traffic violations. Investigations revealed that local police had planted undercover agents in the Defense Committee. On February 7, 1974, Supreme Court Justice James Moore ordered an investigation into the possible wiretapping of the Defense's telephones. By the end of March, the Defense filed a contempt of court suit against Attorney General Fisher for refusing to undertake an adequate investigation of this charge.

The state is following a four pronged attack on the Attica Brothers by denying the Defense funds necessary for their effort, withholding and destroying evidence that could prove the innocence of the defendants and the guilt of the assault forces and officials, continued harrassment and beatings of the defendants, and the maintenance of grand juries for the purpose of intimidation. The prosecution has thusfar received \$6 million to carry on its case. The



Defense during the trial of Brother Willie Smith revealed the existence of witness statements and investigative reports which the defendant was entitled by law to read and study in preparing his defense, but the prosecutors had told the court they did not have the statements. Testimony in a hearing conducted during the trial brought out the fact that the Special Prosecutor has had a paper shredder in use throughout the investigation, and that investigators routinely destroyed the notes they made during thousands of interviews with prisoners and state employees who were at Attica during the rebellion. The Defense said the importance of the statements it said were suppressed was underscored when the State's star witness, John Schleich, changed his testimony at trial from what he previously told the Grand Jury under oath in March, 1972. In addition, a gag rule was placed on the Defense, prohibiting any release of evidence, attempting to insure that release of evidence of crimes by state officials is not possible.

The continuation of the Grand Jury and the physical abuse of the defendants are part of the systematic program of intimidation the state is attempting to use to break the will of the Attica Brothers. The Grand Jury stands ready to hand down more indictments at any time in spite of the fact that it has long outgrown any semblance of an investigative body. It is controlled by the Governor's office through Fisher, and admittedly anti-prisoner people make up the majority of that body. On April 29, a hearing was scheduled to determine

whether the Defense and prosecution were ready to go to trial. While their lawyer was making his statement, six of the Brothers were beaten and/or maced in the Erie County Jail because they refused to have their hands handcuffed behind them. They felt that it would leave them unprotected from any assault in the tunnel between the jail and the courthouse. Mariano "Dalou" Gonzalez was beaten unconscious and had bruises all over his body. Legal papers and other private property were confiscated.

Two other incidents reveal that the terror has not ended. On November 22, 1973, one of the defendants received third degree burns over 40% of his body, the result of a fire in his cell. Reports about the origin of the fire are conflicting, but it is evident that the guards' inaction and incompetence contributed heavily to the extent of the burns. On October 28 of this year, Brother Richard Bilello was stabbed to death in Clinton Prison. He had been promised, as a condition of his guilty plea, that he would be sent to a penitentiary near his family in New York City. On being sent to Clinton, he moved to take back his plea, stating that the state had violated the agreement. In a suit filed against the state, he demanded that his lawyer and Judge Ball be ordered to answer the question about why the conditions of his plea were not met. The murder occurred the day after he issued the demand.

Although the dismissal of charges against Brother Willie Smith represents a victory for the Brothers, the most crucial trials are yet

(continued on page 8)





# THE DEFENSE COMMITTEE

## Jacksonville, North Carolina

"All of the problems that we as enlisted men, women, and families have in the military come from the fact that as a group, we have no power. If we are ever going to change things like unsafe working conditions, long hours, the lack of justice in the military legal system, inferior living conditions, outdated dress codes; if we as enlisted people are ever going to win control over our own lives, we are going to have to organize. We are the working class of the military, and we are going to have to struggle for our rights just as the civilian working class has had to do."

- from the "Statement of Principles" of the Defense Committee

During the late 60's and early 70's, there was an upsurge in the consciousness of active-duty GI's stationed in the United States and overseas about the roles they were forced to play and the war they were forced to participate in. Influencing and growing out of this trend was the emergence of GI coffee houses, bookstores, and counseling centers.

The project in Jacksonville was begun in September of 1971, by people who had previously worked with the GI Union at Fort Bragg. The Committee consists of mostly veterans and active duty marines. The number of people involved in the project has fluctuated greatly over the years. There is usually a big turnover because when the USMC learns that a person is working with us, the style of repression used against them is not unlike a witch hunt. Many people have been broken, but there are many people at Camp LeJune (USMC base in Jacksonville) who use RAGE (the Committee's monthly newspaper) for legal help and other forms of support. It is not uncommon for someone to call up for legal help who possibly received the paper once in town.

The Defense Committee is an outgrowth of the United We Stand Bookstore, which housed the counseling activities of the project as well as carrying literature on Black and Third World Liberation struggles. On May 2, 1973, the Bookstore was dynamited and subsequently closed down for a month and a half. Shortly afterwards, there were five or six bombings just south of Jacksonville in Wilmington, North Carolina. Police and FBI investigations resulted in the arrest of Leroy Gibson for the Jacksonville incident. Gibson is the leader of a racist, paramilitary organization called Rights for White People, which was linked to the bombings in Jacksonville. Gibson is a retired marine sergeant who remained in Jacksonville and entered the insurance business. On the two nights prior to the night of the explosion, 15 to 20 Black marines met with a visiting counselor from the National Black Draft Counsellors of Chicago. Gibson had previously made threats on the lives of two of the civilians who ran the book-

# GI's ARE NOT STRIKEBREAKERS



# OR RIOT COPS!

store. No one was in the store when the explosion went off, and no one was hurt.

Jacksonville is like many service towns in that it was almost nonexistent before the base was set up. At present, it exists solely to make money off of marines and sailors stationed at Camp LeJune. The town could not exist economically without the base. Likewise, it offers little to GI's stationed here besides honky-tonk bars, jewelry stores, and other hard-sell businesses. The whole town is geared to making money, from the sleazy bars to the courts, to the bonding companies. The relationship between the base and town is unique. You end up having marines and sailors building up tensions on base. They have no real place on base to let off steam, and the military can't afford to have 35,000 GI's letting off steam on base. So they go to town, where many find themselves getting arrested for offenses ranging from drugs to drunk. They go to court, pay a stiff fine, and then things get back to normal. The base has its internal stability, while the town has its money.



The base consists of 35,000 marines and sailors within three major commands. One of these, the Second Marine Division (2nd Mar Div), plays a very active role in America's imperialist moves around the world, and a very active part in domestic disturbances. The 2nd Mar Div has a battalion permanently on station on a Caribbean cruise, one battalion on station on a Mediterranean cruise, and one battalion permanently stationed at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. The Mediterranean cruise especially has been used as a potential strike force in the various Mid East conflicts, Cyprus, and as a prop for the past fascist governments in Greece, Portugal, and Spain. During some of the Mid East situations, marines have been issued live ammunition and told to be ready to make a landing. Troops from LeJune were used in the intervention in the Dominican Republic in 1965, which led to the overthrow of the Bosch forces and their replacement with a pro-U.S. regime.

Domestically, elements of the 2nd Mar Div have seen action in Washington, D.C., in the anti-war demonstrations in May 1971. They were also used at the 1972 Miami conventions, and various other "disturbances". With the 82nd Airborne at Fort Bragg, they stand ready to intervene in domestic affairs anywhere on the eastern coast. For these reasons, we believe that Camp LeJune and Fort Bragg are extremely important to anyone involved in the movement or socialist organizing.

Organizing marines has peculiarities all its own. Marines, moreso than the Navy and Air Force, get little in the way of job training. This is not to say that the other services shine brightly in this department. Most enlisted marines are drawn heavily from working-class neighborhoods and backgrounds, and more often than not join the Marines to prove their "manhood", stay out of jail, or because of the ever present inability to keep food in their stomachs and clothes on their backs. Once marines have completed boot camp, they have been heavily conditioned to react to orders rather than think for themselves. A good case in point was during the 1973 Mid East war when several projects here on the east coast were circulating a petition to keep American troops out of the war. At that time many marines told us that they had been told by their Commanding Officers that signing the petition would result in their being slapped with a charge of mutiny.

We see one of our biggest roles as the ongoing education of marines and sailors, whether legal advice, history, or political education. Many of these people have not finished High School, and there is a desperate need to make these people aware of the situation around them. The Defense Committee publishes a monthly newspaper (RAGE), which contains news to serve this end. In addition to our educational activities, we feel that as an organization, we must be able to show people that they are not alone, and that their strength



lies in their unity.

Basically what we are trying to do is to meet with GI's and engage them and ourselves in a program of education involving not only legal rights, but also information on what is going on in this country, the implications of being sent on riot duty, and what is going on in the world, such as liberation struggles in Africa, Palestine, and South East Asia. Some of these people have been stationed in Thailand and have pretty advanced ideas on these subjects. Hopefully if large numbers of people are reached in our sessions, they may question their role the next time they are called to act as domestic or world police.

We are working with people from a service that has an ever increasing US (unauthorized absence) and desertion rate, at a time when the same figures for the other services are declining. With the intimidation and fear the situation becomes unbelievably oppressive sometimes, but hopefully we will be able to see results whenever the marines are ordered overseas or to a domestic "disturbance".



"GIs and BUSING", cont.

Boston, like most large urban centers around the country, is a divided city. Middle-class white folks have split to the peaceful suburbs of Newton, Lexington, and Belmont, taking their tax dollars and political influence with them. The big politicians like Mayor White and Governor Sargent ignore the problems of the poor and working-class neighborhoods; city, state, and federal money is reserved for the richer areas; and inner-city decay sets in. Racism has kept Blacks and other third world people from moving out of the ghettos like Mission Hill in Roxbury, and Columbia Point in Dorchester, and white folks who can't afford or who don't want to move hole up in almost all-white neighborhoods like Hyde Park, Roslindale, and South Boston. Even when a good job can be found, Blacks and Puerto Ricans have to fight through the barrier of racial prejudice to get hired. And both white and third world working people start off with two strikes against them because they get a lousy education in their schools. Of sixty eight schools surveyed by the Boston Teachers' Union in 1970, only three had a full-time nurse, only nine had a gym, and only five had full-time remedial reading teachers. Two hundred thirty one teachers reported inadequate heat, 369 reported inadequate lighting, 296 said they had to teach without textbooks, and 398 taught in classes with numbers of students larger than the contract limit.

In many schools, classes are held in corridors, cloak rooms, basements and cafeterias. One elementary school is "temporarily" located on the grounds of Boston State Mental Hospital. The worst conditions, of course, are in the Black and Latin schools.

You might ask yourself why Whites, Blacks and Latins have not united together to fight for better schools, better housing, and better jobs. Well, the answer is white racism.

As bad as conditions are in the White neighborhoods and schools, they're still a little bit better than things in Roxbury and Columbia Point. Whites can get slightly better jobs than Blacks and Latins; this means they can pay more taxes. City schools are paid for by local property taxes. It means that schools in white communities are going to have a little more than the Black and Latin ones, even though they are all lousy. So the whites have a small edge on third world people, and racism makes them want to hang onto this edge instead of joining with the Blacks and Latins to fight for a good education for all of their children.

And then along comes the Boston School Committee. This bunch of racists, led by chairman John Kerrigan and lawyer Louise Day Hicks, has been making political hay for years, playing on the racism and fears of the white communities. Rather than do anything that would better the schools, they spend their time dividing work-

ing people by race. The reason is money. A segregated white neighborhood is an expensive white neighborhood, and Hicks and Kerrigan own alot of property in the white neighborhoods. They have built up a George Wallace-type power base by pretending to fight for the "little guy" (the white little guy), while in reality making sure he stays little, by not fighting for better schools, only whiter schools.

The Black Liberation Movement that swept the country in the 60's affected Boston as well as the South, and in 1964, Massachusetts passed a Racial Imbalance Law that said no school could have more than fifty per cent third world enrollment. That meant that all-white schools were okay, but no school could be more than half Black or Latin.

This didn't bother the Boston School Committee, however, which just ignored the law and went on segregating the schools. The number of white students in 100% white schools has risen from 4,000 to 6,000 in the last ten years - from 13 to 15 schools. Boston's school population is 60% white, 32% Black and 8% other nationalities, mostly Puerto Rican. But almost 80% of the Black and Latin kids go to schools that are over 50% third world.

Well, since the white schools are a little better than the Black and Latin schools, alot of third world parents feel that if they can't go to decent schools in their own neighborhoods, and can't move out to where the good schools are, then the only temporary answer is to get their kids bussed to the white schools.

So last June 21st, the NAACP pushed through and won a law suit to desegregate the schools. The judge, Arthur Garrity, set up a plan that called for busing 15,000 children, mainly between Roxbury and South Boston, Hyde Park, Roslindale and Dorchester.

The schools opened on September 13th, and already trouble was clearly brewing. A Boston School Committee meeting the weekend before had drawn 5,000 people to hear speeches by Hicks and Kerrigan about how the Blacks were trying to ruin the education of white working people.

For the rest of September and the first week in October, Black students were subjected to physical and verbal abuse by crowds of whites. Buses were stoned, Black cabbies and bus drivers were beaten, and fights broke out between Black and white students. On October 7th, parents of bussed children and other Black groups met after another round of stonings and called for protection.

After Black students retaliated for the violence committed against their classmates, Mayor White asked for 125 US Marshalls. The Black caucus in the state legislature called for eight to ten thousand federal troops to guarantee the safe-



ty of Blacks being bussed. There was speculation among the Black organizations that if GIs were called up, they would only be used to control the Black communities, like during the rebellions in Watts, Detroit, and Newark a few years ago.

On October 9, Garrity denied White's request for marshalls and Governor Sargent made 400 state and district police available to the city. President Ford denounced the the busing decision by Garrity, which encouraged the anti-busing mobs. On the 16th, the 2,500 man Third Brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, was put on increased readiness status, and by noon of that day, at least 1,000 men were out practicing riot control. The direction seemed clear - the government was considering clamping down martial law in Boston.

Everyday, we see the effects of racism around us. A Black man gets CCF\* for AWOL, while a white man only gets a fine. A group of Latin brothers is smoking and joking out in front of the barracks and they get busted for "disorderly conduct" or "inciting a riot". Two years ago, nine Black Vietnam veterans were arrested in connection with the slaying of nine whites in the Chicago area. State Attorney General Hanrahan described the suspects as part of a nationwide 3,000 member Black terrorist organization whose purpose was to kill white people. The papers went crazy, the whites went into a panic and called for more police protection. At the time, Hanrahan was up for re-election. It was later uncovered that no such organization existed.

The pattern is the same: the cops, newspapers and politicians all conspire to whip up racist fears in the white communities, and then come down on the Blacks. The result is that the anger of the white working people that should be focused on the government and the business interests it serves is unleashed instead at third world working people.

This time the show was a little different. The Guard was supposedly called up to protect Black school children against the attacks of racist mobs. But where was the talk about protection when the Klan was night-riding through the Black communities. On September 18th, the Ku Klux Klan invaded the Black housing project at Columbia Point. In full uniform and with racist slogans draped all over their cars, they breezed down the main streets of the Point, yelling and throwing things at the people on the sidewalks. Earlier that day, young white gangs from South Boston had done the same, throwing rocks and bottles, shooting BB guns at children, and shouting racial insults.

After the attack by the Klan, the people of Columbia Point organized themselves. They stood twenty four hour watch with eight hour details and they armed themselves. It was only then that the police began to arrive in numbers. On September 24th, some 300 of Boston's Tactical

Police Force moved into Columbia Point and enforced an unofficial state of martial law. The Community Youth Center and the Columbia Point Day Care Center, where people had been joining for mutual protection against the Klan were raided the next afternoon. Merium Manning, the day care director, verified this information; "Anytime you break down doors and search all the rooms and closets with guns and riot equipment, what do you call it but a raid." The Tactical Police Force occupied the community center for three days. As soon as they left, the concerned mothers and young Black men of the project again took up the task of community self-defense and political education. They were also joined by many Puerto Ricans who wanted to show their solidarity with the Blacks in their time of common trouble.

\* \* \*

As the situation worsened, Governor Sargent asked for federal troops. The 82nd Airborne at Fort Bragg was put on alert. Although the troops were never actually called into Boston, they were being prepared for riot duty for two weeks prior to the withdrawal of the request. The organizers at Fort Bragg offered the following alternative to their being used as riot police:

#### THE SOLUTION

1. Stop the racist mob attacks on Black citizens and school children - all decent and honest White citizens of South Boston, Hyde Park, Dorchester and Roslindale must stand up to these bigots and let the world know they don't speak or act for most White working people.
2. No martial law in the Black communities. Support the Black community's right to self-defense.
3. Throw out the fascists like Hicks, Kerrigan, and the KKK who are trying to build their own power bases on racism and fear.
4. Demand a decent education for all Boston children. Support the right of Black and Latin communities to control their own education.
5. End all discrimination in buying or renting houses or apartments.

They circulated the following petition among the troops at Fort Bragg:

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED GIs AND GUARDSMEN SUPPORT THE RIGHT OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY OF BOSTON TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST ATTACKS BY RACIST MOBS BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY. WE DON'T WANT TO BE SENT INTO THE BLACK COMMUNITY AS AN OCCUPATION ARMY. WE ARE AGAINST ANY ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE MARTIAL LAW ON THE BLACK COMMUNITY.



# november grants

## SUNFIGHTER

Box 22199, Seattle, Washington 98122

Sunfighter is a non-profit, cooperative effort by and for all prisoners, ex-prisoners, and people involved in the criminal justice system. Its staff is multi-racial and consists of prisoners at Monroe Prison, and ex-convicts and friends living in the Puget Sound area. Sunfighter puts out a monthly newspaper which seeks to "break down the harsh walls of isolation" and "create unity" among prisoners. The paper also has staff at Purdy, the state's womens' prison. The paper stresses democracy in all aspects of writing, layout, editorials, and distribution. It seeks to be a vehicle for communication on two levels. First, it facilitates interaction and communication among prisoners within the same institution and between institutions. Sunfighter also allows for communication between prisoners, staff and the prison administration. The first edition came out of a struggle by prisoners to gain the right to bargain collectively and form a union. The grant is to cover costs for one issue of the paper.

\*

\*

\*

"ATTICA", cont.

Attica Brothers Legal Defense team was denied \$88,440 to cover pre-trial motions and investigations on the basis of a technicality by Judge Carmen F. Ball on October 24, 1974. The \$88,440 was part of \$750,000 that had been promised by the State Legislature for defense work, none of which has been delivered. Ball ruled that only court-appointed New York State lawyers could receive the appropriation. Only one of the more than 40 legal personnel working for the Defense fits into this category. Ball conceded that a "vast amount" of work had been done because of the scope of the case, but ruled that this work was voluntary and therefore did not require payment by the state. This decision is being appealed by the Defense.

On October 10 of this year, the Defense filed suit in Federal Court in Buffalo asking that the files of the Attica Special Prosecutor be impounded. Aside from \$6 million and all the lawyers that the state is employing in its efforts to convict the Brothers, they have diverted the Organized Crime Task Force from its normal duties to help in gathering massive amounts of evidence through interviews with officials, prisoners, guards, police, newsmen, and others present during the assault. The OCTF spends most of its time working on the enforcement aspects of Rockefeller's new drug law. Defense lawyers said records shown to the

## JACKSON HUMAN RIGHTS PROJECT

P.O. Box 11235, Jackson, Mississippi 39213

JHRP is a community organization that has been working in the low-income town of Jackson for the past six years. They operate a community sewing coop, clothing store, liberation school, adult study groups, and a five acre cooperative farm. They have been highly successful in developing an alternative clothing production and distribution system for poor people in the Jackson area.

\*

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our readers and friends who responded generously to our Call for Support in last month's Newsletter. The response was great enough to enable us to give out the two new grants above, in addition to meeting our past commitments for continuing grants. Our ability to continue doing so depends, as always, on your generosity.

to come. In September, the trial of John Hill, Charley-Joe Pernasilice, Big Black and Dalou on charges of murder was scheduled to begin. It is this trial which will most likely set the precedents for the other trials. The prosecution of the Brothers is the method by which the state is attempting to conceal their responsibility for the murders in September, 1971. They have received over \$6 million thus far. The Defense has received nothing; no state funds, no office space, nothing except the threat of more indictments and harassment. The financial needs of the Defense can be met only with the help of progressive individuals and organizations working together to end the injustice that continues in upstate New York. Money, inquiries, requests for speakers and more information can be addressed to the Attica Brothers Legal Defense, 147 Franklin Street, Buffalo, New York, 14202.

The unity and determination of the Brothers in the face of seemingly insurmountable attempts to crush their resistance was best summarized by Big Black on June 4, 1974. Judge Ball had sent letters to the Brothers offering them lighter sentences if they would plead guilty. Black responded for the Brothers; "Justice is not something you bargain for...We will not negotiate behind closed doors, we will not accept offers of blackmail. We will not sell each other out. No, we will not make a whore of ourselves, and we will not make a whore out of justice."